

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
JUNE 6, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; Robert Richards, Susan Marks, Marc Thorne, Charles Koons

STAFF: Kate Clarke Buch, Town Administrator

OTHERS: Peter Fazekas, Aquarion Director of Public Relations; Daniel Lawrence, Aquarion Director of Engineering & Planning, Robert Ulrich, Aquarion Director of Supply Operations, John Herlihy Vice President, Shaun Volin Chairman Board of Fire Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. and led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATION BY AQUARION

First Selectman Stevenson introduced Mr. Peter Fazekas, Director of Public Relations for Aquarion Water Company; thanking the Aquarion staff for being present and educating Darien residents on one of the fundamental services to the town.

Mr. Fazekas introduced the other Aquarion staff who would be speaking - Daniel Lawrence, Robert Ulrich and John Herlihy. The staff gave a presentation providing an overview of Aquarion's history and operations, upcoming improvements to company infrastructure in Darien, water quality control measures and conservation measures.

First Selectman Stevenson thanked the Aquarion staff for their time and presentation.

Public Comment – None

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

First Selectman Stevenson read her report and provided it for the record, as follows:

- Congratulations to Officers Ron Bussell, George Vitone, Jerry Marron, Michael Cummings and James Martin on receiving the United States Attorney's Award for their work on investigating and prosecuting the case of Anthony Sabato. Mr. Sabato was the lone suspect in the unsolved murder of Darien Police Officer Kenneth Bateman and was convicted in federal court of drug trafficking and for supplying the weapon that killed Officer Bateman. Sabato has sustained 35 convictions since 1975, including state convictions for assault, larceny, burglary and narcotics offenses, and federal convictions for firearms, gambling, and fraud offenses. Our community is a safer place with him behind bars. I commend Chief Lovello and the entire Darien Police Department for their focus and resolve in this case.
- On Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, Lieutenant Osborne and I attended the Calvary Baptist & Encounter Church to accept, on behalf of all Darien First Responders, their acknowledgement of appreciation for our service to the Town of Darien.
- Tanko Lighting will be conducting a two week audit of our streetlights beginning tomorrow, June 7<sup>th</sup>. A Tanko representative, wearing a yellow safety vest, will be walking neighborhoods conducting the audit. He/she will have appropriate identification that will be provided upon request.
- Thank you to Ed Gentile and his staff as well as Channel 79 for conducting and videotaping the tour of the town garage on Saturday. Seeing the existing space is good due diligence as the town garage renovation project moves forward so I recommend anyone who wants to "take the tour", please find the Vimeo link on the town website.

#### State Budget Update

- Governor Malloy employed his line item veto authority last week and cut an additional \$20million from municipal aid in the FY17 budget that was approved by the Legislature in May. No information has been provided to cities and towns on how we will be affected. Reasons for the cuts were attributed to the failure of the Governor's proposed bail reform and the passage of legislation to support 3D mammography.
- State budget cuts have resulted in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner returning the responsibility of the disposition of unclaimed remains back to municipalities. It is true that state statute gives this responsibility to cities and towns but the reality is that cities and towns don't have the ability to carry out this law and have become reliant on the OCME for that purpose. I'm gathering more information and will report back to this board with recommendations for how we should best handle our responsibilities. What I do know after talking to Dr. James Gill, CME, is that the need for autopsies has risen by over 50% since last year, do, in large part, to drug overdoses, and the OCME is already understaffed and lacking in appropriate storage for their "customers".

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Buch reported on the progress of a Permanent Building Committee. She provided a copy of Bethel's charter as a model for development.

Ms. Buch also advised they were interviewing for a new Human Resources director and were continuing to develop the new website. Each department has been tasked with going through their own section to check usability.

### New Business

#### Discuss and Take Action on:

- a) Discuss and Take Action on Request to approve the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual JR Forever Memorial Walk on Sunday October 2, 2016

**\*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST.**  
**\*\* MS. MARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b) Discuss and Take Action on claim against Evan Desimone: The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Darien hereby authorize the settlement in the matter of Town of Darien v. Desimone in the amount of \$7,200.00

**\*\* MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST.**  
**\*\* MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- c) Discuss and Take Action on claim by Garsan Construction: The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Darien hereby authorize the settlement in the matter of Garsan (aka Northeast Building Group, Inc.) and Kennedy Electric v. Town of Darien in the amount of \$50,000.00

**\*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST.**  
**\*\* MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

d) Transfers:

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:

**POLICE**

The following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:

**From:**

**To:**

Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount		Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount
10302213 83006	Police Uniforms	2000.00			Station Operation	
	Police Office				Solid Waste Disposal	
10302243 83001	Supplies	1000.00		10302323 82013	Services	4000.00
10302313 82040	Police Fleet	1000.00				
	Services					

**FIRE COMMISSION**

- \*\* MR. THORNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST.**
- \*\* MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:

**FIRE COMMISSION**

The following transfer of appropriations for **FY 2017** is approved for referral to the Board of Finance

**From:**

**To:**

Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount		Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount
10704000-86600	Contingency	51,000		10303441-82056	Communications	51,000

Ms. Buch noted that this transfer is for the fiscal 2017 year. Shaun Volin, Chairman Board of Fire Commissioners was present and answered questions from the Board members.

First Selectman Stevenson asked Mr. Volin to give an overview of their trial month period and compare it to the service of the Darien Police Department dispatch. Mr. Volin went into detail the benefits of being dispatched by the Southwestern Region Communications Center (SWRCC), most significantly improving response time and communication to all 3 firehouses simultaneously.

Ms. Marks thanked Mr. Volin and staff for being at the meeting and providing answers as it helped her to come to her decision.

**\*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST.**  
**\*\* MS. MARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

Consider and take action on the following appointment:

- a) Jonathan England to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a 3-year term from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2019.

**\*\* MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST.**  
**\*\* MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MR. KOONS).**

#### AGENDA REVIEW

Mr. Thorne asked if there was any progress on Hecker Avenue. Ms. Buch advised there was not, but Attorney Fox planned to reach out to some contacts in the Attorney General's office to help move the issue forward.

Mr. Thorne asked for an update on action that could be taken regarding recommendations from the pedestrian infrastructure advisory committee. First Selectman Stevenson took this opportunity to mention a plan for crosswalks in the downtown area between the Darien Sport Shop and Sedgewick. She also mentioned that she had been approached by Norwalk (specifically Norwalk Community College) on building a bike path from the Darien train station to NCC.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Executive Session of May 16, 2016

**\*\* MR. THORNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**  
**\*\* MS. MARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Regular Meeting of May 16, 2016.

Mr. Koons submitted changes to Ms. Buch.

**\*\* MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**  
**\*\* MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Special Meeting of May 23, 2016.

**\*\* MR. THORNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**  
**\*\* MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Adjournment

**\*\* MS. MARKS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**  
**\*\* MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leah Mink  
Telesco Secretarial Services